

Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes

March 17, 2005
3:00 p.m.

Monday Afternoon Club
Willows, CA

Chair Marc Faye called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., followed by self-introductions. It was determined there was a quorum of (12) voting members present.

<u>County</u>	<u>Public Interest</u>	<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Butte	Jane Dolan	Shirley Lewis	
Colusa	Gary Evans	Ben Carter	
Glenn	Denny Bungarz	Don Anderson	
Shasta	(Glenn Hawes)	Dan Gover	
Sutter	(Dan Silva)	Russell Young	
Tehama	(Ron Warner)	Brendon Flynn	
Yolo	Duane Chamberlain	Marc Faye	
Resources Agency			Jim McKeivitt
Cal DWR			(Dwight Russell)
Cal DFG			Diana Jacobs
State Reclamation Board			Pete Rabbon
USF&WS			(Darrin Thome)
USCOE			Mark Charlton
Bureau of Reclamation			Frank Michny

Names listed in parentheses represent absences
Manager Burt Bundy
Assistant Ellen Gentry
Resource Conservation Assistant Beverley Anderson-Abbs

Other attendees: Les Heringer, M & T Ranch; Dawit Zeleke, The Nature Conservancy (TNC); Jeff Sutton, Family Water Alliance; Francis Hickel, Family Water Alliance; Vickie Newlin, California Bay Delta Authority (CBDA); John Merz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust; Suellen Rowilson, River Partners; Anjanette Martin, TAC Chair; Les Harder, Chief, DWR Division of Flood Management.

2. Unscheduled Matters – Northern Sacramento Valley Water Forum is holding the Central Valley Flood Control System Reform addressing public safety and liability, April 1, 1:30-4:00, at Sutter County Veteran's Hall in Yuba City. Lester Snow, Director, CA Department of Water Resources is the keynote speaker.

John Merz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust, announced a number of activities available on their website www.sacrivetrust.org. Active participation was encouraged.

Brendon Flynn announced the Sacramento Valley Landowners Association Annual Meeting the 24th in Maxwell. Tickets are \$35 per person and dinner is included. A panel discussion will be held regarding flood control issues.

Suellen Rowilson announced River Partners will be holding their Annual dinner the 24th, 6:00pm at Sierra Nevada Brewery. Tickets are \$25. Please RSVP Mona Cross at 894-5401x23 or email: mcross@riverpartners.org. An activity calendar is on their website: www.riverpartners.org.

3. Consent Calendar – Russell Young moved to adopt the minutes of the January 20, 2005 meeting, seconded by Jane Dolan. Motion passed by unanimous vote. Russell Young moved to accept the Executive Committee meeting notes for the January 20, 2005 meeting, seconded by Jane Dolan. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. Agency Reports - Frank Michny, Bureau of Reclamation, reported Red Bluff Diversion Dam is having a resurfacing of planning efforts regarding endangered species.

Mark Charlton, Corps of Engineers, reported on the annual trip to Washington, D.C. In talking to congressional members, funding is tight. The message to members from Wally Herger was to fight to add and keep what was in the budget. One important project that is not included in the budget is the Sacramento River Bank Project. Hamilton City will need additional funding and authorization by 2006. New congressional members (i.e., Mike Thompson) are taking an interest and may be able to provide a benefit for us.

Diana Jacobs reported on CALFED program news. Talks are continuing on the concept of water user fees. Dan Castleberry, CBDA, has moved to another supervisory position for California/Nevada. Vickie Newlin added two subcommittee meetings will be held: April 1, 9-noon regarding the Drinking Water Quality Project; and April 7, the Working Landscapes Subcommittee and the PILT final draft report.

Pete Rabbon reported the Reclamation Board is slated for additional authority. Landowner issues are improving as is repairing existing levees for public safety (i.e., the Plumas Lakes issue). The preconstruction design for Hamilton City is moving forward and in the process of being approved. CALFED funding for Hamilton City seems to have strong support.

5. DWR Flood Management Strategy Briefing - Pete introduced Les Harder, PhD. as Chief of Department of Water Resources, Division of Flood Management. Les gave a PowerPoint presentation on the flood white paper entitled “Flood Warnings: Responding to California’s Flood Crisis.” Prepared in response to a legislative mandate, the report is considered “a catalyst to begin discussions on the best ways to move forward with reform strategies and financing system improvements.” Discussions followed regarding maintenance of existing systems, improved coordination among agencies, mitigation banking, priorities, financial alternatives, benefits, and permit streamlining. It was also noted that under AB 1665 the Central Valley Flood Control Assessment District would replace the State Reclamation Board as local sponsor of federal flood control projects. Les left a card for further comments with Beverley.

6. Board Committee Reports – The SRCAF work-plan requires some public outreach and the Executive Committee recommendation was to try to address landowner incentives through a ½ day or full day workshop. A panel of agencies that provide landowner incentives and discussing how programs work, could meet with a landowner panel discussing what incentives they need or would like to see. Input and Board direction was requested. An outline will be available for the next meeting. Direction was also requested to participate as part of the Sacramento Watershed and Sacramento River Preservation Trust Conference workshop in September. SRCAF co-sponsorship requires Board action. Denny Bungarz moved to approve both items, seconded by Dan Gover. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Board Development Committee – There was no report at this time.

Financial Capacity Committee – Jim reported they will have a meeting set up before leaving today regarding secure based funding. Research has been started.

LAC – Ben reported the January meeting was rescheduled for February 24. Regarding a Legaci update, the Core Team is working on potential scopes of projects, addressing the GNP and a programmatic permit for VELB, possibly as a pilot project in conjunction with the Colusa Subreach Study. He expressed frustration with agencies not coming forward regarding the GNP; however a conceptional framework has been done. If tangible progress is not delivered by June, Ben stated he would step down as landowner representative and will recommend disbanding this committee. Discussion ensued regarding what has and has not been implemented, endowment funds, the Core Team pursuing stakeholder support and a simplified permitting process, legal issues and offsetting mitigation.

TAC – Anjanette reported on the TAC review of the 13 PSP monitoring proposals, all of which meet the principles and guidelines of the SRCAF handbook. Discussion followed regarding CALFED criteria, availability of complete proposals on Project Tracker (www.srcfprojecttracker.org), screening and validity of credentials, timelines and review periods. The draft letter to proponents was presented to the Board with additional language to include: “local contact and coordination with SRCAF.” Denny Bungarz moved to approve letter with the additional language, seconded by Don Anderson. Motion passed with Shirley Lewis dissenting and Gary Evans abstaining.

Project Tracker – Beverley gave a presentation on the Project Tracker’s website: www.srcfprojecttracker.org, regarding information pages, proponents entering new requests and printable forms. She pointed out that projects can be reviewed several ways: by proponents, lead investigators, river miles, county and other details. She demonstrated the interactive map as well as links to public access websites (i.e., sacramentoriver.org). Over 55 projects have been entered to date. Beverley received a round of applause for her presentation.

PILT – The final draft report has moved up to the Working Landscapes Subcommittee and CBDA. Burt will attend the CBDA meeting April 13-14 to discuss the issue.

Public Use – When this committee met Denny recommended getting Sutter involved as well as Colusa, Glenn, Tehama and Shasta for standard protocols and a maintenance process. There is also the opportunity for streamlining boat ramp maintenance permitting. DFG and the COE will provide key staff in helping find a solution.

7. Activities Report – Les Heringer gave an update on M & T/Llano Seco Ranches and presented the two alternatives: Ranney collectors and spur dikes, and the expense of each. Additional information is being gathered. Meanwhile they have started the permit process for moving gravel.

CSP – Ben expressed a similar type frustration as with the LAC, regarding the CSP Public meeting and issues being discussed and not addressed. He reported the Steering Committee met yesterday and wanted the board to know there are serious concerns for ongoing and planned restoration. He noted that some CSP Advisory Workgroup volunteers are ready to walk away from this project. Jeff Sutton and Francis Hickie echoed Ben’s frustration. Francis asked the Board to direct their manager to go to the table in good faith with the suggestions and to listen to people. Burt reviewed the fact that the eight specific sites involved have property owners with property rights like anyone else, and can move forward. The commitment is to try to look at information (i.e., flood control) and improve without impacts from restoration. John Merz indicated it is important to know what “advisory” means, and that there are a few folks who are and intend to stay engaged in science based projects. He pointed out that we are hearing opinions and not process, and suggested expanding with workshops for this type of conversation and for information that is inaccurate. Flood management and comp studies are real. He stated that posturing is not learning from some sectors.

Gary Evans commented that the landowner group at the CSP Public meeting is directly affected from what goes on at the Board level.

8. Future Meeting Dates – The Annual Board meeting and Bar-B-Q will be at Dan Gover's ranch, June 2. The following meeting will be held July 21.